CBS NEWS - APOLLO 14 LAUNCH (1-31-1971)

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From Sunday, January 31st, 1971 CBS NEWS Coverage of the launch of Apollo 14. Launched at 4:03 P.M E.T. This was the 3rd mission to land humans on the Moon.

Apollo 14 Crew:
Commander: Alan Shepard
CM Pilot: Stuart Rousa
LM Pilot: Edger Mitchell

- CREDIT: LM5 for the footage!

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downrange through which it will be going looks like it's at about oh what would you say six thousand feet something like that it was uh eight thousand a little earlier and looks lower to now might even be lower than that uh that's uh only going to take us through uh less than a minute of flight and then she's going to disappear behind the cloud and our long-range cameras that do such a beautiful job aren't going to get to see the separation of the s1c first stage or the staging into the second stage or the staging to the third stage which we have seen in the past with that remarkable camera uh that's a disappointment but uh at least we'll watch launch off here that's the cue ball the shield on the top very top of the spacecraft configuration the entire apollo 14 and that's what blows off at 10 minutes 10 seconds before they launch admission of those five engines in the first stage of the saturn v will begin at 8.9 we'll stay with him now for the next minute and 45 seconds to watch still go with apollo 14. we'll go on internal power in the saturn v launch vehicle at the 52nd mark in the count at ignition and liftoff we'll have more than seven and a half million pounds of thrust pushing the space vehicle off the launch pad this is the heaviest saturn v space vehicle to be launched thus far coming up on the one minute 20 second mark one minute 20 seconds and counting still go at this time third stage tanks now are pressurized according to our stratus board here in the firing room one minute 10 seconds and counting this is kennedy launch control coming up in 60 seconds mark t

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in 60 seconds mark t minus 60 seconds and counting still go with the count first stage uh tanks are now pressurized as our status board uh gives us a rundown on the automatic sequence 50 seconds and counting we've now gone on internal power on the internal batteries of the saturn 5 as the count continues 40 seconds and counting alan shepard reports that he's performing his final guidance alignment the final uh maneuver the astronauts performed before liftoff 30 seconds and counting stu roosa just said thanks it's been a good count 25 seconds and counting we are still go 20 seconds guidance alert the guidance system now going internal 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 ignition sequence start five four three two one zero launch commit liftoff we have liftoff with apollo 14. three minutes past the hour the tower is clear houston is controlling 16 seconds pitch and roll program started 14 maneuvering to a proper flight course 25 seconds shepard reports roll program completed pitch profile still in progress 37 seconds okay we're in one problem

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cabin pressure coming down adjusting from sea level to a space environment we have a remote camera status check and mission control are coming up all greens on the flight director's console in houston everything looks good here on the ground all right one minute 19 seconds coming up on period of maximum aerodynamic pressure on the vehicle that cam you see is further downrange just down the florida coast here and apparently they've got a clear shot i think this is the rivero beach camera in fact right down there yes it looks great but uh it's over 60 miles down one minute 35 seconds nine nautical miles in altitude five nautical miles downrange velocity now reading 33 140 feet per second they've been through the first real test the maximum demanding pressure area that we came at one minute 25 seconds into the flight that's where they get the maximum was buffeting escape pass through max q mode one charlie mark one charlie now we're one surely eds auto is off you've seen the first stage coming up on center engine shutdown 2 minutes 12 seconds 20 nautical miles in altitude center engine shut down on time that's 2 minutes 25 seconds 25 nautical miles in altitude 30 nautical miles downrange another 15 seconds all those uh first stage engines cut down the other four on the outer right two minus 35 seconds coming up on staging that's a great shot roger hand separation ignition on five

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this is the one we hope to fly back [Music] should see it from the inside you can see it really there you see the college and now they can all look down that's the torah that had worked more than i flew on before great sequence that's the best picture 3 minutes 35 seconds 14 now 33 feet shorter 9 000 pounds lighter moving out well beyond the earth's atmosphere we show an altitude of 60 nautical miles that's the tower right at the top of the uh saturn that would pull the command module free in case there were a catastrophic uh disaster in the market three minutes 55 seconds 63 nautical miles in altitude 143 nautical miles downrange velocity nuts and that four minutes trajectory and guidance look good 14 roger that's uh that's bruce's voice we're hearing isn't it four minutes 20 seconds velocity now reading at 10 750 feet per second then accelerating the voice you're hearing from ground control mission control apollo 14's trajectory data driving right down the middle of our plot boards right now flight path data is go that voice is john mccleesh the voice of apollo and mission control in houston the capsule communicator you hear talking to the spacecraft is major gordon fullerton one of the astronauts and the voice you hear from the apollo uh is that of the command module pilot uh 37 year old stuart russo he's sitting there in the middle scene 78 nautical miles in altitude 235 nautical miles downrange

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so it looks like apollo 14 got away from florida retro that's part of very good shape 14 is clear of the atlantic weather [Music] it's pointed out to me here that the reason our pictures are so good and the great good fortune we've got that that camera is is down the florida coast and out of this immediate storm area isn't that amazing just just 60 miles or so down there i think but it's fairly clear there up to that moment predicted time for s2 shut down nine minutes 16 seconds uh very close to normal we're at five minutes 45 seconds but uh stand by for s4 b to coi mark s4b the coi now just for bcli fullerton reporting that 14 capable of reaching a minimum orbit with a combination of a good third stage in service module engines meanwhile in mission control a status check being taken coming up all greens so thank goodness 20 seconds 1491 nautical motors are running they can make their earth orbit now or any circumstance right this is significant to us because you know that you can at least get there rather than have to abort possibly and go into a continent area and you don't like to land that way but at least you can have a chance now to overfly the surface of the earth and not worry about impacting land the the next event coming up here is in about a minute on the center engine cut off of the s2 six minutes 55 seconds 95 nautical miles in altitude that's what that's the one that cut off

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that's what that's the one that cut off early on uh follow 13. 13. [Music] to prevent this so-called oscillation or pogo effect which caused a premature shutdown [Music] well i can't say we have those fellows as rookies anymore they're committed 30 seconds 14 flying almost parallel over the ocean now with shepard with the shepherd crew and hits down position really moving out now for downrange distance so we showed down range of 587 nautical miles cut off that was a center engine shutdown right on time good thrust on the other four hell's flowing farther now than he did before yeah he's flown farther he's still got uh seven more minutes before he equals his 15-minute flight before he's uh he's within seven minutes of doubling his time in space well the flight of apollo 14 is eight minutes [Music] that's uh outboard engine cutoff is supposed to come now at uh nine minutes to 17 seconds into the flight that's about another 35 40 seconds and then we get the first test of that s4b which is so vital to the flight out to the moon that's the last of the third stages it's a 20 500 pound thrust engine and uh it's got to light for the first time

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to light for the first time 100 nautical miles in altitude 830 nautical miles downrange that's vital for coming back to remembering that's right then it shuts down after staging looks good on s4b thank you the shepherd crew has now used up two-thirds of their saturn stages on their way to orbit we're at nine minutes 45 seconds 101 nautical miles in altitude 989 nautical miles downrange velocity now reading at twenty three thousand three hundred [Music] twenty three thousand three hundred thirteen feet per second well this s4b fires until 11 minutes and 43 seconds into the flight that's another minute and a half approximately in houston everything's looking perfect here roger by that time they're achieving an orbital speed of almost 18 000 miles an hour 10 minutes 25 seconds 102 nautical miles now altitude 11 443 nautical miles downrange velocity now reading 24 206 feet per second they should hit the orbit to the window a little keyhole in the sky into orbit proper orbit houston predicted as planned 1-1 plus 4-3 [Music]

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[Music] that's reset yes predicted time was shut down 11 minutes uh 43 seconds i think that number came up from the uh trajectory team that was about 10 seconds predicted cut off one one plus four three nominal right one one plus four three oh that was first downrange distance now 1322 nautical miles 11 minutes 30 seconds so we've got about another 10 seconds now and we'll get that last cut off and the parking orbit uh insertion standing by now for shutdown kind of fun to say parking orbit when you're zinging around at 18 000 miles an hour isn't it well they're at that point suspended between the earth's gravity and the momentum that they have picked up uh into space so that they've it's a parking arm they're hanging out well they're really falling around the earth which is rather interesting at the rate of the earth curvature super cool raja could show go orbit zero [Music]

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[Music] okay this is apollo control houston we're advised that the vice president of the united states is now in the firing room we will switch to cape kennedy [Music] here is uh vice president agnew this official party i don't uh i can't uh identify them on my monitor here unfortunately we've got a lot of light and the monitor is rather dim can see the vice president in the middle but can you tell who's with him there and i'm sure it's some of the space officials but i i can't make them out no the lighting is down oh there that helps where's george lowe in front of the uh vice president or acting administrator he's taking tom payne's part uh place oh there's one carlos now it's brighter juan carlos the the designate ruler of spain prince juan carlos and his princess sofia they're right in the lower left-hand corner of your picture and uh vice president in the center of the picture now we got a little better view of the prince and the princess [Music] and there's uh kurt dibus the director of this kennedy space center they're just behind agnew there's walter airplane to the right carefree and right in front of him with that big decision to make to launch the headset on his uh yes thank you [Applause] thank you very much [Applause] again i suppose it it is almost a routine performance for me to be here to congratulate the men and women of nasa on an incredibly successful launch and insertion into orbit i must say that i never fail to be tremendously impressed and moved by this occurrence

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occurrence today is especially pleasurable because i had the opportunity to be with the royal highnesses of prince juan carlos princess sophia of spain and i can tell you this much if i've ever seen two fans and converts to the american space undertaking we have them right here in these wonderful fine dignitaries with me today i think that this flight has an especially meaningful and critical mission in the american space program i don't have to enlarge upon that to the men and women here our dedication to our space program remains undiminished i think that we're going to continue to press forward for what needs to be done in this respect and i want to congratulate the people of nasa who throughout all of the killings and tuggings the fears and the exhilarations that undertake a high risk venture such as the american space program have been so consistent so constant and certainly so restrained in their reaction to what may have been considered to be in some areas some very discouraging occurrences those days are past us and we're going forward together not just to the moon but i'm certain that the american program will continue to press forward into the reaches of interplanetary space and now it's a great pleasure for me to ask our royal guest his royal highness prince juan carlos who incidentally knows a lot more about flying than i do because he pilots his own helicopter to greet the men and women of nasa and to give us in some measure his reactions to this historic occasion

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historic occasion thank you [Applause] thank you very much mr vice president you said that we were fans we are fans we came here in 1962 in our honeymoon we met some of you that we saw today and we were very happy to see them again we saw the installations and the facilities of nasa in houston with dr law was there then at the time and we were very much interested personally i followed a few of the tracking stations you have in my country i know the people there and i know how well they are doing here i don't have any words because you are the man who put up those three men that now go to the moon and you're doing so much for progress and for the whole humanity that i'm very proud to be a part of europe today congratulations and thank you very much [Applause] a man on the center of the screen there who is right to the left of vice president agnew to the right on your screen was walter caprian who was the launch director today as he has been for the last several apollo shots as the man who had to say that the cloud cover today it didn't contain the same sort of threat that uh unexpectedly developed on apollo 12 when he decided that it was all right to go and it must have he must have had real crossed fingers uh at this launch of apollo 14 through this very heavy cloud cover but now apollo 14 is on the way it is in orbit 118 miles above the earth

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